GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:272
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
REGULATORY MECHANISM FOR CABLE OPERATORS
Fanthome Shri Francis

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the existing legal and regulatory mechanism to regulate the cable operators in the country;

(b) whether it is mandatory for the cable operators to carry a prescribed minimum number of public broadcasting channels on their network;

(c) if so,the details thereof;

(d) whether violations in this regard have come to the notice of the Government;

(e) if so,the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against the defaulters;and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure strict compliance of the said regulations?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.272 FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2008.

(a): The Cable Television Network services in the country are regulated as per the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules thereunder.The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is also regulating carriage of Cable TV services in the country.

(b): Yes, Sir.

(c): Section 8 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act,1995 has provided for mandatory carriage of Doordarshan channels notified by Prasar Bharati under the provisions of the Act. As on date cable operators are required to carry following channels compulsorily in their Cable TV Network services:-

(1) Lok Sabha Television channel
(2) DD Rajya Sabha channel
(3) DD-1 (National channel)
(4) DD (News channel)
(5) DD Sports channel
(6) DD Urdu channel
(7) Gyan Darshan channel
(8) DD Bharati channel; and
(9) Regional channel of the State concerned wherein the cable operator is providing its service.

(d),(e) & (f): The Government has received complaints of non-carriage of notified channels.On receipt of such complaints,concerned authorized officer has been directed to take necessary action for ensuring carriage of these channels.Government has issued instructions from time to time for ensuring enforcement of Section 8 of the Act and carriage of notified channels by cable operators.